

Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce this special issue of *CRM*, my first as Director, which focuses on the outstanding employees who work in the preservation trades and crafts. I have worked my entire federal career for the NPS, and I am deeply dedicated to its mission to preserve for all time America's cultural and historic treasures; likewise, I have gained a deep respect for the men and women working in preservation maintenance and the crafts, and those fostering the trade work in our parks.

The core mission of the National Park Service is to conserve our national heritage unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. This is the most fundamental trust that the American people and its leaders have bestowed upon us. As an organization, the Service cannot hope to meet this obligation without a stronger resource management and protection capability. The hands-on preservation of our historic structures by skilled and sensitive employees falls right in line with this objective. We are now bringing trade skills to our parks through partnership programs. One example of this activity is the International Preservation Trades Workshop with its myriad co-sponsors, that will bring preservation technicians together to further skills training. The Historic Preservation Training Center, now celebrating its 20th anniversary year, is assuming a leadership role in historic skills and crafts training; it is a leadership role that I welcome and encourage.

I strongly support the Service's commitment to training and diversifying its preservation technicians—and to providing a safe environment for employees and visitors—and I have supported efforts to encourage ongoing historic preservation skills and crafts development initiatives. I applaud this issue of *CRM* which brings together for the first time the voices of those whose work we see at our nation's heritage sites but seldom hear from, those whose very skills constitute the frontline work in preservation. I urge you to consider the viewpoints presented in this issue of *CRM*; they know from where they speak, their success comes from constant practice.

In my vision for the National Park Service, we will preserve and maintain the resources entrusted to our care to the highest levels of quality possible; and we will accomplish this through highly skilled, diverse, dedicated, and motivated staff. I extend my appreciation to the many dedicated maintenance and trade employees of the NPS family who demonstrate skill, devotion, and plain hard work, and I expect to hear more from you in the future. I look forward with pride and enthusiasm to working with you and all our partners to protect America's heritage resources.



Robert Stanton
Director, National Park Service